

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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SUBJECT: ASEAN INDUSTRY CLUBS

REF: STATE 029988

1. SUMMARY. DISCUSSIONS WITH AMERICAN CHAMBER IN THAILAND INCLUDING US AND THAI MANAGERS OF US FIRMS, PRIMARILY RUBBER, CEMENT, PAPER AND ELECTRONICS REVEAL THAT MEMBERS ARE ONLY JUST COMMENDING TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK TO FOLLOW ASEAN-CCI ACTIVITIES AND TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AMONGST THEMSELVES. EXERCISE IS ALREADY PROVING USEFUL BUT BASIC INTENTION OF LOCAL GROUP IS AIMED MORE AT "MONITORING" ASEAN AS DISTINCT TO "INVOLVEMENT" AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

2. LOCAL AMCHAM MEMBERS ARE ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING ASEAN-CCI ACTIVITIES AND HAVE JUST FORMED AN ASEAN SUB-COMMITTEE DESIGNATING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE VARIOUS INDUSTRY CLUBS FROM THEIR ROSTER. THEIR INTEREST IS STIMULATED BY THE DESIRE TO COLLECT A USEFUL RESERVOIR OF INFORMATION ON THE INDUSTRY CLUBS TO PERMIT THEM TO MAKE JUDGMENTS ON
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MATTERS AFFECTING THEIR COMPANIES' INVESTMENT AND FUTURE PARTICIPATION. LOCAL AMCHAM PARTICIPATION IN ASEAN INDUSTRY CLUBS IS TEMPERED BY THE ULTIMATE FOLE THE INDUSTRY CLUBS MIGHT PLAN (UNKNOWN) AND BY CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE CONTRAVENTION OF US ANTI-TRUST LAWS. THUS, THEIR ATTITUDE IS TO ACCUMULATE INFORMATION AND MOVE CAUTIOUSLY TOWARDS FULL PARTICIPATION UNTIL THE ROUTE IS MORE CLEARLY

DEFINED. FOR THE TIME BEING, THEIR ACTION IS CONFINED TO
"MONITORING" ASEAN INDUSTRY CLUB DEVELOPMENTS.

3. BRIEFS ARE BEING PREPARED BY AMCHAM ON ALL THE ASEAN INDUSTRY CLUBS AND ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE NATIONAL THIA CLUBS AND THE ASEAN LEVEL ASSOCIATIONS. THE MOST ACTIVE CURRENT RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE RUBBER BASED INDUSTRY CLUB (RBIC) IN THAILAND, THE THAI AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY CLUB, THE THAI PULP AND PAPER CLUB AND THE THAI CEMENT MANUFACTURERS CLUB WHICH ARE ALREADY IN CONSULTATION WITH THEIR ASEAN LEVEL COUNTERPARTS.

4. THE LOCAL PARTICIPANTS OF THE CEMENT AND PAPER CLUBS SEE CONSIDERABLE VALUE IN THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATION FROM THE STAND-POINT OF EXCHANGES IN TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND IN THE IDENTIFICATION AND AVAILABILITY OF VARIOUS MATERIALS THROUGHOUT THE REGION WHICH SERVE AS COMPONENTS TO THEIR PRODUCT.

5. WE WILL BE DEVELOPING INFORMATION ON MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES, NATURE OF ACTIVITIES, ETC. AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL. THESE ASPECTS ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE LOCAL AMCHAM ASEAN SUB-COMMITTEE AND WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO US AS THEY ARE PRODUCED FOR THE RESPECTIVE INDUSTRY CLUBS.

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